

Message Text

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AF/S - MR. DOLS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS STATE 051568

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TBIO SENV SF

REF: STATE 174287

SUBJECT: MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT: SOUTH AFRICAN FUR
SEALS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) OF DEPT. OF COMMERCE.
EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER PROPOSED TRIP BY
SPECIALISTS, CITED IN LETTER IS ACCEPTABLE TO SAG.

2. QUOTE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE HAS RECEIVED
TWO APPLICATIONS FOR WAIVER OR MORATORIUM TO ALLOW IMPORTA-
TION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FUR SEALS. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION
ACT OF 1972 REQUIRES SERIES OF STEPS BE TAKEN PRIOR TO
REACHING DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO WAIVE MORATORIUM.
CRITICAL STEP IN THIS PROCESS IS DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMEN-
TAL IMPACT STATEMENT WHICH DISCUSSES ALL ASPECTS OF
REQUESTED ACTION.

3. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE DEVELOPED SOME DATA
ON THIS SUBJECT LAST YEAR DURING HEARINGS AND OTHER
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ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

EXEMPTION BY FOUKE COMPANY. IN ADDITION IT SENT WALTER KIRKNESS OF NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE TO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA TO VIEW HARVEST ACTIVITIES.

4. IN ORDER TO PREPARE AS COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AS POSSIBLE, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE WOULD LIKE TO SEND PERSONNEL TO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA DURING PERIOD MARCH 26, 1974, TO APRIL 5, 1974, IN ORDER TO REVIEW FIRST HAND AND IN GREATER DEPTH BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA UPON WHICH REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA BASES ITS CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

5. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE ANTICIPATES HAVING AVAILABLE FOR THIS REVIEW POPULATION DYNAMICS SPECIALIST AND MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION HAVE POPULATION DYNAMICS SPECIALIST ACCOMPANY U.S. DELEGATION.

6. SPECIFIC NAMES, TITLES, AND ITINERARY WILL FOLLOW IF PROPOSED TRIP IS ACCEPTABLE TO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.
END QUOTE KISSINGER

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